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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2011

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Official Records
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Supplement No. 42

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/86, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008 and 64/65 of 2 December 2009,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, by which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Disarmament Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/65/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2011:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade;

(c) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. This item will be taken up upon the conclusion of the preparation of the elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, preferably in 2010 and in any case no later than 2011;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2011, namely from 4 to 22 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the 2011 substantive session

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2011 at United Nations Headquarters at its 309th plenary meeting, on 28 March 2011 (see A/CN.10/PV.309). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2011 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 65/86. The Commission took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of chair among the geographic regions. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 2011 substantive session.

3. At its 309th meeting on 28 March 2011, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session, contained in document A/CN.10/L.65, as follows:

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/65/27).

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade.
6. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. This item will be taken up upon the conclusion of the preparation of the elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, preferably in 2010 and in any case no later than 2011.
7. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.
8. Other business.

4. At its 310th meeting, on 4 April 2011 the Commission took note of its general programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/2011/CRP.1), in which four meetings were allocated to a general exchange of views.

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 21 April 2011. In the course of its session, the Commission held eight plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.310-317), chaired by Hamid Al-Bayati (Iraq). Sergei Cherniavsky, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Commission, and Ioan Tudor, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2011 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:
Hamid Al-Bayati (Iraq)

Vice-Chairs:
Representatives of Belgium, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Senegal and Spain

Rapporteur:
Dadjedji H. Djokpe (Benin)

7. At the 310th meeting, on 4 April 2011, the Commission elected Kayode Laro (Nigeria) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5, and at the 314th meeting, on 7 April 2011, elected Knut Langeland (Norway) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4.

8. At its 310th meeting, on 4 April 2011, the Commission decided to establish Working Group III, on agenda item 6. At its 315th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission elected Liseth Ancidey (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) as Chair of Working Group III.

9. On 4 and 5 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.310-313). The representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile (on behalf of the Rio Group), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), India, Indonesia, Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Nigeria, Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

10. At the 1st meeting (310th plenary), on 4 April, the Commission heard the statement of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte.

11. In accordance with the decision taken at its 2009 session, the Disarmament Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Working Group I was chaired by Knut Langeland (Norway) and held seven meetings, from 7 to 14 April.

12. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade". Working Group II was chaired by Kayode Laro (Nigeria) and held seven meetings, on 6 April and from 8 to 14 April.

13. The Commission entrusted Working Group III with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 6, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Working Group III was chaired by Liseth Ancidey (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and held seven meetings, from 15 to 20 April.

14. In accordance with the past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

15. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 65/86, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

16. No documents were submitted during the 2011 substantive session of the Commission.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

17. At its 317th plenary meeting, on 21 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions contained therein. There were no recommendations put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

18. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

19. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 309th meeting, on 28 March 2011, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2011 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.65) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". At its 314th meeting, on 7 April, the Commission elected Knut Langeland (Norway) as Chair of Working Group I.

2. Working Group I held seven formal meetings between 7 and 14 April 2011. Sergei Cherniavsky of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Working Group. Curtis Raynold, Junko Hirakawa and Anya Erokhina of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as advisers to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group had before it a working paper submitted by the Chair of Working Group I at its 2008 session (A/CN.10/2008/WG.I/WP.1/Rev.1) and a working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement at the 2010 session (A/CN.10/2010/WG.I/WP.1).

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 7 April 2011, and at its 3rd meeting, on 8 April 2011, the Working Group held discussions on topics suggested by the Chair in his personal capacity, on a non-exhaustive basis, during which members made various proposals.

5. At the 4th meeting, on 11 April 2011, the Chair circulated a non-paper, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, to facilitate discussions.

6. At the 5th and 6th meetings, on 12 and 13 April 2011, delegations made various proposals and exchanged views to bridge their respective positions in the search for agreed language but, despite discussions, were unable to achieve a consensus. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

7. At its 7th meeting, on 14 April 2011, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4.

20. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 309th meeting, on 28 March 2011, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2011 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.65), and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade". At its 310th meeting, on 4 April, the Commission elected Kayode Laro (Nigeria) as Chair of Working Group II.

2. Working Group II held seven formal meetings between 6 and 14 April 2011. Sergei Cherniavsky of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of Working Group II. Ioan Tudor, Randy Rydell and Nils Schmieder of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as advisers to Working Group II.

3. Pursuant to the decision by the Working Group at its 2010 session, at the 2nd meeting, on 6 April 2011, the Chair circulated a non-paper (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2), into which proposals made by delegations at the 2010 session had been incorporated.

4. At its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 8, 11 and 12 April 2011, respectively, the Working Group completed a preliminary reading of the Chair's non-paper.

5. At the 6th meeting, on 13 April 2011, the Chair circulated a revised non-paper, incorporating proposals submitted by delegations during the preliminary reading of the non-paper.

6. At the same meeting, the Chair introduced, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, a non-paper dated 13 April 2011.

7. At the 6th and 7th meetings, on 13 and 14 April 2011, respectively, delegations made a variety of proposals and exchanged views on the Chair's revised non-paper dated 13 April 2011.

8. At the 7th meeting, on 14 April 2011, the Chair circulated a revised non-paper dated 14 April 2011, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. After its consideration of the non-paper, the Working Group was unable to reach a consensus. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

9. Also at its 7th meeting, on 14 April 2011, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5.

21. The report of Working Group III reads as follows:

Report of Working Group III on agenda item 6

1. At the organizational session held at its 309th plenary meeting, on 28 March 2011, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2011 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.65) and decided to allocate agenda item 6, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", to Working Group III. At its 315th meeting, on 15 April 2011, the

Commission elected Liseth Ancidey (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) as Chair of Working Group III.

2. Working Group III, chaired by Liseth Ancidey (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), held seven formal meetings from 15 to 20 April 2011. Christa Giles of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as Secretary of Working Group III. Pamela Maponga and Hideki Matsuno of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as advisers to Working Group III.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 15 April 2011, the document A/CN.10/2008/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2 was circulated. Following the deliberations of delegations at the same meeting, the Chair informed the Working Group that she would prepare a non-paper consisting of a non-exhaustive list of possible subjects to be included in the non-paper. The Chair's non-paper was prepared under her own responsibility without prejudice to the position of any delegation, in order to facilitate discussions.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 15 April 2011, the Working Group continued its deliberations.

5. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 18 April 2011, the Working Group discussed the Chair's non-paper, which had been circulated before the 3rd meeting.

6. At its 5th meeting, on 19 April 2011, the Working Group continued its deliberations and made proposals on the Chair's non-paper. Subsequently, the Chair circulated a revised version of the non-paper. The revised version of the Chair's paper was prepared under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation.

7. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 19 April 2011, the Working Group held discussions on the revised version of the Chair's non-paper during which members made various proposals.

8. At the 7th meeting, on 20 April 2011, the Chair circulated a second revised version of the non-paper, under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Working Group considered the latest version of the Chair's non-paper but was unable to reach a consensus on it. The Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

9. At its 7th meeting, on 20 April 2011, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 6.

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